

## Using Your Purchase Card to Buy Biobased Products

### What is BioPreferred and what are biobased products?

The 2002 and 2008 Farm Bills established a biobased markets program to increase the purchase and use of biobased products. The program has two components:

- A preferred procurement program for Federal agencies and their contractors, and
- A voluntary labeling program for the broad-scale consumer marketing of biobased products.

USDA, the lead agency for this part of the Farm Bill, refers to the program as BioPreferred<sup>SM</sup>.

Biobased products are commercial or industrial products (other than food or feed) that are composed of biological or renewable agricultural materials or an intermediate ingredient or feedstock.

### Why use biobased products?

When you use your purchase card to buy biobased products, you are helping your agency

- Increase our energy security and independence
- Spur economic development
- Improve our environment
- Comply with the law

Purchasing biobased products promotes the use of renewable resources and helps manage the carbon cycle. Using biobased products as alternatives to petroleum-based products enhances our national energy security by reducing dependence on oil and natural gas. In addition, the increased demand for agricultural and forestry materials can help create new manufacturing activity and job formation. Many biobased products are environmentally friendly, and can help create safer, healthier workplaces.

### Is it mandatory to buy biobased products?

Section 9002 of the 2008 Farm Bill requires Federal agencies to purchase biobased products designated by BioPreferred, except as provided at Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 23.404(b). When you buy BioPreferred products and services with your purchase card, you are fulfilling the requirements found in the FAR Part 13 and the BioPreferred Guidelines.

### How do I identify biobased products?

The BioPreferred program is working to make it easy for you to locate and purchase biobased products. To date, BioPreferred has identified more than 15,000 biobased products commercially available for your purchase.

BioPreferred not only designates biobased item categories that require preferred procurement, but also provides guidance on how to purchase these products. BioPreferred has created a biobased products catalog to help you locate manufacturers and vendors of biobased products at [www.biopreferred.gov](http://www.biopreferred.gov). The catalog will provide you with information on designated BioPreferred products including product description, biobased content, company name and contact information.

### Where do I purchase biobased products?

It is easy for you as a purchase cardholder to use your purchase card to buy biobased products. Some of these products are readily available at:

Program	Instructions
<b>AbilityOne Program</b> <a href="http://www.abilityonecatalog.com">www.abilityonecatalog.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Insert product keyword (biobased) to search catalog products, OR</li><li>• Click on “SKILCRAFT Biobased” or “Spartan Biobased” for additional products, OR</li><li>• Click on “SKILCRAFT Environmental Products” (left margin, bottom choice) to locate products such as “Foodservice and Operating Supplies.”</li></ul>
<b>GSAAdvantage</b> <a href="http://www.gsaadvantage.gov">www.gsaadvantage.gov</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enter keyword (biobased) to locate products such as graffiti removers, degreasers, glass cleaners, and hand sanitizers</li><li>• Click on “Environmental” Special Category to find products like biobased flatware and hand cleaners, OR</li><li>• Click on “Environmental Special Program Aisle” and click on the “biobased icon” to find products like dust suppressants and asphalt release agents</li></ul>
<b>Department of Defense EMALL</b> <a href="http://dod-emall.dla.mil/acct/">dod-emall.dla.mil/acct/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Register</li><li>• Insert “biobased” as the keyword to find products</li></ul>
<b>GSA stock and supply programs</b> <a href="http://www.gsa.gov">www.gsa.gov</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Insert “biobased” as the keyword to find biobased products</li></ul>

### What actions can I take to promote biobased products?

- **Become familiar with available biobased products** by exploring the BioPreferred biobased products catalog ([www.biopreferred.gov](http://www.biopreferred.gov)). Use the keyword “biobased” to search for products.
- **Buy biobased products** the next time you are purchasing. The BioPreferred Web page ([www.biopreferred.gov](http://www.biopreferred.gov)) provides a list of designated biobased products available for purchase.
- **Compare the biobased item’s performance** to the item you would have purchased otherwise. Any biobased product that you purchase should perform as well or better than the alternative.
- **Share your biobased product experiences** with other purchase card holders, your supervisors and others through the BioPreferred Web site: [www.biopreferred.gov](http://www.biopreferred.gov).

### Who can I contact for more information?

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